

"In 1998, I hosted President Clinton in Monterey at the National Ocean Conference, and now we're seeing that vision fulfilled," said Rep. Farr (D-Calif.). "We already have a Clean Air Act and a Clean Water Act. With today's executive order, President Obama in effect creates a Clean Ocean Act."

The executive order will put in place a science-based ocean policy including improved coordination for ocean resource governance and a structured, regional approach to implementation. The executive order will also authorize a plan for coastal and marine spatial planning, another policy initiative supported by Rep. Farr (D-Carmel).

"With so much attention focused on the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, it's vital that we use this time to craft policies that will help prevent future disasters and ensure responsible stewardship of the ocean," Rep. Farr said. "I've been working for years to establish a National Ocean Policy, and I'm excited to see my efforts endorsed by the president."

The key contents of the report, which will be included in the president's executive order:

- A national policy for stewardship of the ocean, coasts and Great Lakes, including key principles to guide decisions on ocean policy.
- Creation of a National Ocean Council to coordinate the many federal agencies with ocean oversight responsibilities.

- Nine key categories of action to help accomplish the goals of ocean conservation and stewardship.
- Framework for marine spatial planning.

Over the next year, responsible agencies will draft-with public input-the strategic action plans needed to carry out the executive order.

"As Congress debates a legislative package in response to the oil spill, I'll continue to make sure that protecting, maintaining and sustaining the ocean is given top priority," Rep. Farr said. "I'm glad the Obama administration has clarified its support for ocean protection and conservation and is doing something about it. But because executive orders can be overturned by future presidents, I'll keep driving for legislative action to make these changes permanent."

For the full text of the "National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes," visit www.whitehouse.gov/oceans .

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